1	2	3	4
		1994-95 (BE)	
Elementary Education	523.22	12064.68	12587.90
Higher Education	581.88	2671.74	3253.62
Total Education	2420.26	24756.97	27177.23

Bhutanese Refugees

555. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that thousands of Bhutanese refugees have taken shelter in the Indo-Nepal border areas;

(b) whether some of these refugees while participating in appeal march to return to Bhutan have been arrested and jailed by the police of West Bengal;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of refugees arrested so far;

(d) whether it is a fact that one of the refugees died in a Central Jail in West Bengal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). Government are aware of the movement of Bhutanese citizens of Nepalese origin from their place of origin to camps in Nepal. Some groups have attempted to march from Nepal through Indian territory towards Bhutan in order to agitate the matter of their status and their demands. It is the consistent policy of the Government of not allowing political activities on Indian soil directed against friendly countries. Hence prohibitory orders have been imposed by the competent authorities. 1896 persons were taken into protective custody, in accordance with the laws of the land, for violating the prohibitory orders. Most of them have already been released.

(d) and (e). It is learnt that one of the detinees Shri Babu Ram Tamang, who was suffering from tuberculosis, passed away on 13 June 1996 in the Berhampur Central Jail.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Physical Education

556 SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance to the States to improve the standard of physical education in schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of states which have placed their demand in this regard as well as the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) the extent of financial assistance sanctioned to each state during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) No, Sir. There is no scheme under which Government propose to provide financial assistance to the states to improve the standards of physical education in schools.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Gratuity to Retired Workers of CIL

557. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the retired workers of Coal India Limited have not been paid gratuity till date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which their gratuity will be paid;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the workers are not being provided the benefit of LTC for the last two years; and

(d) if so, the time by which the unpaid amount pertaining to LTC is likely to be paid to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) :(a) and (b). As per information furnished by Coal India Ltd., the payments of gratuity to its retired employees have generally been made in time. However, there has been delay in cases relating to one of the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited upon its being confronted with a severe crash crunch or where the claimants had not completed the requisite procedural formalities.

(c) and (d). Financial constraints faced by a subsidiary company of Coal India Limited have led to delay in provision of LTC benefit to the workers. While efforts are being made to remedy the situation, indicating a definite time limit therefor does not seem possible.

Review of National Policy on Education

558. SHRI T. GOPALKRISHNA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have undertaken the review of the National Policy on Education since its implementation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The review was done by the National Policy on Education Review Committee (NPERC) headed by Acharya Ramamurti as well as by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) Committee on Policy under the Chairmanship of Shri N Janardhana Reddy during 1990-92. Following this, the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 and its Programme of Action (POA), 1992 were updated and tabled in the House on 7th May, 1992 and 19th August, 1992 respectively.

Indian Coast Guard

559. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(b) whether the Indian Coast Guard are facing difficulties in strengthening vigil due to inadequate number of ships and aeroplanes and shortage of other facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any information regarding intimidation of Indian fishing vessels by Pakistani navy along Western Coast;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures Government are taking to strengthen vigil along the coastal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). The Coast Guard are maintaining the required vigil by appropriately deploying ships and aircraft available with them. Upgradation of facilities and requipping of forces is an ongoing process which is given priority attention.

(c) and (d). In the absence of a well-defined IBL between India and Pakistan at sea, there have been stray incidents of apprehension of fishermen by armed forces of either country and some reports of intimidation to Indian fishermen.

(e) Enhanced maritime surveillance and patrolling are being carried out jointly by the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard in the sensitive coastal areas.

SYL Canal Project

560. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount invested so far on the construction of Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal (SYL);

(b) the progress made in the construction of this canal, so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to chalk out a time bound programme for completion of the SYL canal project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The Central Government has released Rs. 499.12 crores to the Government of Punjab for construction of Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal so far.

(b) About 97% of the earth work, 95% of the lining work and 86% of the structures were completed when the construction work came to a halt.

(c) and (d). The information cannot be disclosed in public interest.

Pak's Offer of Most Favoured Nation Status

561. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY :
KUMARI UMA BHARTI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Pakistan regarding formal trade between the two countries and offer of most favoured nation status to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c) Pakistan has not accorded MFN status to India and permits import from a list of 573 items.

Government have taken up the issue of grant of MFN status to India with Pakistan on several occasions and at various levels. Pakistan's official response is awaited.

International Monitoring System Facilities

562. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI G.G. SWELL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India had made it clear at Conference on disarmament, Geneva that it would withdraw its International Monitoring System facilities in India;